



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
April 4, 2001

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), Robert Ashby, Oden Cassidy, Debbie Dane, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Charles Little, Carol Pillsbury, Alan Azzara, Wayne Werts, John Burton (ex-officio), Steve Leach, Peter DiPietrantonio

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Donnie Carroll, Jim Caron, Bill Zito

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Drexell White, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

1. Introduction of Guests

There were no guests or introductions necessary. On behalf of the Board, the Chair extended congratulations to Wayne Werts on his recent promotion to Chief of the Auburn Fire Department.

2. Approval of February 7, 2001 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 7, 2001, as presented (Dunwoody; second by Little) Unanimous

3. Old Business

a. Legislation

Jay reported that this is a very busy session for EMS-related bills. He reviewed each of the bills on the Legislative Summary, which is on the MEMS web page and is frequently updated.

There was considerable discussion about the Department bill that makes a number of changes to the EMS Act of 1982. Although most of the language is housekeeping in nature, one section that makes changes with regard to licensure requirements for providers caring for a patient on interfacility transfers. The intention of this change was to assure that at a minimum there would be a licensed EMS provider accompanying any patient being transported in an ambulance. However, there have been various concerns expressed that the proposed wording may have an unexpected and unwelcome effect.

Jay will work with the Hospital Association to discuss a possible amendment. Failing this, consensus of the Board was that there were other sections of this bill worthy of support and that

this section could be removed from the bill while work continues on language that may be presented to a future Legislature.

b. Budget

Jay discussed the status of the Governor's budget for the next biennium. The latest version of the Part 1 (current programs) budget bill still has funding for EMS at the levels previously discussed. There has been a hearing and work session on the Part 2 (new or expanded programs); however, it is likely to be several more weeks before the results are known.

The Part 2 budget is critical to MEMS because there are two positions being switched from federal funding to General funds that are included in this budget. The Governor's office has expressed their support for this request as has the Criminal Justice Committee.

Until both of these budgets are passed, the impact, if any, on MEMS operations and the regional contracts will remain unknown.

c. Delta Ambulance Request for Rules Interpretation

Jay and Laura Yustak Smith met with Tim Beals, Delta Ambulance Executive Director regarding Delta's letter requesting clarification of Section 11.6(c) of the Rules. Following discussion on the need to respond to this request the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Board's position is that Section 11.6(c) of the EMS Rules is not intended to cover those situations involving scheduled transports where adequate notice is given to the patient that transport by ambulance may not be covered by the patient's insurance. (Leach; second by Little) Unanimous

It was the consensus of those present that this should only be viewed as a temporary solution and that a review and revision of this section of the Rules should be a priority.

4. New Business

a. Investigations Task Force Report

Wayne reported that the Task Force did not meet this month, but will be meeting from 8:30 – 9:30 on May 2.

b. Investigations Committee Action Items

i. Ratification of February 7, 2001 minutes

MOTION: To ratify the February 7, 2001, minutes of the Investigations Committee with one typographical correction in the numbering of agenda items. (Little; second by Dunwoody) Unanimous

ii. Consent agreements

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Terry D. Cook, Jr. (Leach; second by Stevens) Unanimous

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Richard Moore. (Little; second by Leach) Unanimous

c. Operations Team Action Items

Jay reported that the Operations Team met on April 3, and among the items discussed was the cost of conducting licensure exams. The fees have not changed in nearly 10 years, yet costs have steadily increased. The Operations Team will be compiling data on the cost of the exams and will report back at the next Board meeting with a recommendation on an updated fee schedule.

Wayne requested that the proposal include an automatic cost of living factor to help better support the exams in future years. Consensus of the Board is an appropriate plan.

d. Service Sponsorship Work Group

Debbie Dane reported that at its last meeting, the Work Group decided that it was better to keep things simple, rather than complicate the issue with peripheral items. The Work Group agreed that state licensure should be available following successful completion of an approved course and the state exam; however, practice as an EMT would be tied to service affiliation.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the Work Group is headed in the right direction and that work should continue to try and identify the number of providers that might become licensed under such a program and the potential impact on the system to the increased number of licensees.

e. 2001 EMS Award nominees

Dwight reviewed the Committee recommendations for EMS Awards as follows: Governor's Award – William Page, Winslow Fire Dept; EMS Excellence Award – Kerry Sousa Pomelow, Redington Fairview EMS; EMS Merit Awards – Kelly Roderick, KVEMS, Samantha Jean Poliquin, Lebanon Rescue, Employees of Meridian Mobile Health/East, Roberta Seeley, Dennys River Volunteer Ambulance; Lifetime Achievement Awards – Irving Chipman, Harpswell Neck Fire/Rescue, George and Joan Mason, Penobscot Valley Hospital. Richard Brown, Mayo Regional Hospital, and Nancy Parritt, Petit Manan Volunteer Ambulance

MOTION: To accept the above names for awards as presented. (Little; second by Leach) Carried.

It was noted with appreciation that there were over 3 dozen names submitted for consideration at that many of those nominees have contributed a great deal to the EMS system.

f. Other

Jay reported that he received a letter from Dr. Carol St.Pierre- Engles requesting Board approval for Dr. Beth Collamore as the regional medical director for Aroostook EMS.

Normally this request would come to the Board following formal approval by the regional council, but the scheduling of the various meetings are such that it is coming to the Board of EMS at this time and will be formally acted upon at the next Aroostook EMS Council meeting.

MOTION: To accept Dr. Beth Collamore as the Aroostook EMS Medical Director conditional upon her approval by the Aroostook EMS Council. (Little; second by Leach) Carried.

Bill Dunwoody recommended that the Board form an ad hoc committee consisting of Board members, EMS staff, regional coordinators, and other interested stakeholders, to review the EMS Rules including, but not limited to: transfers and air ambulance operations. The Committee would also make recommendation for changes to the Board.

MOTION: To establish the Rules Review sub-Committee as described above. (Dunwoody; second by Azzara) Carried.

Steve Leach and Bill Dunwoody both expressed an interest in participating.

5. Staff Reports

a. Office

Jay reported that Dawn Kinney has been hired as an EMS Licensing Agent filling the position previously held by Bill Montejo. Dawn is an experienced field paramedic who has served on the Exam Committee, been an active EMS instructor, and is a former Aroostook EMS Coordinator. She will begin working part time on April 18 and assume full time duties on April 30.

b. MDPB

Dr. Burton reported that the MDPB has completed its initial review of the EMS protocols in preparation for an updated version to be printed later this year. A number of the changes were of a housekeeping nature; however, the ACLS protocols have been modified as a result of the changes in the AHA guidelines. There will also be a reference page added to the protocols to provide generic information about setting up a helicopter landing zone.

Future topics include a review of the spinal assessment protocol, the use of LMAs in prehospital settings, and the role of PAs/FNPs in prehospital EMS. The May meeting will be the annual review of Interfacility Transfer Protocols/Treatments – deadline for submissions is mid-April.

c. Other

6. Other

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.